

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01 FEAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 OMB-01 FRB-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 XMB-02

SAM-01 /104 W

----- 122058

R 101709Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2886

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AEC GERMANTOWN 1394

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0214

E.O. 11652* GDS

TAGS: TECH ENRG BE

SUBJECT: URANIUM ENRICHMENT/BELGIAN ATOMIC GENERATING PLANS

REF: (A) PARIS 000134 (NOTAL)

(B) CANBERRA 00138 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION JANUARY 9, HERPELS (BELGIAN FONMIN SPECIALIST ON ATOMIC MATTERS) CONFIRMED SUBSTANCE REF A BUT NOTED THAT THE ARRANGEMENT DESCRIBED THEREIN WAS ONLY FOR THE EURODIF ONE PLANT AT TRICASTIN, FRANCE, FOR THE TENTATIVELY PROPOSED EURODIF TWO PLANT, SHE SAID, IRANIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE A DIRECT TEN OR TWENTY PERCENT. IN ADDITION TO SPAIN, ITALY, IRAN, FRANCE AND BELGIUM, GERMANY MIGHT ALSO PARTICIPATE IN EURODIF TWO, SHE ADDED.
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NO SITE FOR THE EURODIF TWO PLANT HAS BEEN SELECTED,

ACCORDING TO PERPELS.

2. HERPELS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER WITLAM HAD HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DUTCH ABOUT BUILDING AN ENRICHMENT PLANT IN AUSTRALIA USING URENCO TECHNOLOGY (REF B). SHE KNEW NOTHING, HOWEVER, ABOUT DISCUSSIONS COVERING FINANCING. SHE ADDED THAT WHILE IN FRANCE WITHLAM HAD HAD SIMILAR CONVERSATIONS ABOUT A PLANT USING EURODIF TECHNOLOGY. HERPELS SAID SHE ASSUMED THAT US-AUSTRALIAN DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALSO TAKEN PLACE AND SHE THOUGHT THE US HAD THE INSIDE TRACK. SHE DISMISSED THE JAPANESE AS BEING EAGER BUT WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE TECHNOLOGICAL BASE IN THE FIELD.

3. TURNING TO THE BELGIAN DOMESTIC SCENE, HERPELS CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT BELGIUM INTENDS TO HAVE TEN ELECTRICITY GENERATING REACTORS IN OPERATIONS BY 1987. WHEREAS THE TWO REACTORS CURRENTLY IN OPERATION IN BELGIUM (AT DOEL AND TIHANGE) PRODUCE 1.4GWE. BY 1979 2.3 GWE WILL BE PRODUCED BY THREE REACTORS AND THEREAFTER THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FROM ATOMIC SOURCES IN BELGIUM WILL GO UP IN STEADY ANNUAL INCREMENTS OF ABOUT .9 GWE (I.E. ONE REACTOR) EACH YEAR UNTIL PRODUCTIONREACHES 12.2 GWE IN 1987. IT SEEMS LIKELY, HERPELS SAID, THAT THREE OF THE TEN REACTORS WILL BE LOCATED AT TIHANGE AND EITHER THREE OR FOUR AT DOEL. THE SITES FOR THE OTHERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN CHOSEN.FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCE, URANIUM, CONSTRUCTION, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRUSSE00214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750011-0153
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750163/aaaacdir.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PARIS 000134
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: URANIUM ENRICHMENT/BELGIAN ATOMIC GENERATING PLANS
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006